

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

CHILCOTT *gy*

THOMPSON *at*

LYONS *dh*

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Date.....January 11, 2007

Members Present.....Commissioner Greg Chilcott and  
Commissioner Alan Thompson

Minutes: Sally Fortino

The Board of County Commissioners met to discuss Administrative Matters, including Employee Action Forms, Juvenile Detention Schedule, Health Insurance Amendments, and Payment in Lieu of Insurance. Skip Rosenthal was present for this meeting.

Skip addressed the Corvallis Bike Path CTEP project and the Darby project that is going to bid. He stated he is working closely with the engineer on this project which is John Horat.

Skip stated private citizen Glen Wise addressed the availability of additional office space for county facilities. He offered units to the county for \$.70 per square foot.

Skip also noted that Detention Supervisor Lori Rodrick has submitted a plan for figuring overtime. It was noted this plan has worked well and all agree to continue the plan.

Skip addressed the changes in the EBMS health insurance which includes the deductible going from \$1500 to \$3000, plus amendments to the program. Commissioner Thompson made a motion to have the Chairman sign the amendments to the Health Insurance Plan, as presented. Commissioner Chilcott seconded the motion, and all voted 'aye'.

Skip developed an 'In Lieu Of Policy' (health insurance), which George Corn, County Attorney, asked to review. He stated there should be no problem implementing the policy, pending George's approval.

Skip presented Employee Action Forms for approval and signature.

In other business, the Board of County Commissioners met with Page Gough, Airport Manager, for approval of a Qwest right-of-way easement. He presented F.A.A. Representative Joelle Briggs' cover letter, stating there are no problems with granting this

easement. Page shared the terms of the contract and what has been agreed to in exchange for the easement.

Commissioner Chilcott said he saw no problem, but would like to have the County Attorney review the document. Commissioner Thompson said it would be nice to have the County Attorney review it, but did not feel it was necessary.

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to have the Chairman sign the Qwest Agreement as presented this day. Commissioner Chilcott seconded the motion, and all voted 'aye'.

Minutes: Glenda Wiles

In other business the Board held a first reading of Ravalli County Ordinance #16 (Animal Protection and Control). Commissioner Chilcott called the meeting to order, reading the legal notice. This is a continuation of the previous meetings held on December 14<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup>. Under Sheriff Kevin McConnell was present, as were numerous Animal Control and Protection Board Members and citizens.

Public comment was called for.

Animal Protection and Control Board Chairman Peg Platt thanked the audience for their hard work. She read an email from County Attorney George Corn who supported this ordinance after their review. She stated they added the definition of kennel to the earlier draft.

Lynn Taylor of Stevensville asked if this ordinance will be part of the Sheriff's Office for purposes of enforcement. Under-Sheriff McConnell stated ultimately this will be a separate department. However, they realize they will need to support this ordinance.

Clark Lee stated in the previous proposals there were some grants and collection of fees. He assumes this will be sufficient for revenues, but in the interim there is a great deal of weight being put on the Humane Society, which is run by volunteers and is not a law enforcement agency. He asked if it was the intent of the County to put the burden of enforcement on this charitable organization. He stated until the revenues are sufficient to make this a stand-alone department, the County will need to dig into their moneys and support this ordinance. He asked how this would be implemented, such as impounding dogs, etc. He asked if grants were going to be enough.

Bill Kyle of Como stated the County road goes through his property and his dog likes to lie along the road. He is against this ordinance, as are other ranchers. He stated 'these people want to force this city-type ordinance on us farmers'.

Linda Perry stated they don't want to interfere with ranching; they simply want to get some funds for horses starving, dogs killing chickens, etc. She stated they would utilize the license fees to hire an Animal Control Officer.

Under-Sheriff McConnell stated this ordinance does not do anything other than what's on the books now; it just adds the license requirement. There are no new laws or new restrictions. The 'Dogs at Large' was already on the books before this Ordinance was proposed. Commissioner Chilcott said having sworn officers handle animal calls is a loss to the law enforcement needs, and not an efficient use of human resources.

Mr. Kyle stated this just creates a fear factor and people do not want to have to pay to get their impounded dogs back. The farmers and ranchers are in the country and this should not apply to them.

Commissioner Thompson stated it is important to have an Animal Control Officer handle these dog calls and gave an example of his neighbor's dangerous dog. He stated the Commissioners' Office receives numerous calls of dangerous dogs and dogs that harass livestock. He stated the licensing will benefit the public as a whole.

Clark asked if the ranchers, like Mr. Kyle, will need to pay the licensing when their dogs are not the dogs causing problems. He asked if there is any interface of the county/city residents who own dogs. He stated the majority of the fees will come from the cities.

Commissioner Chilcott said the County has no jurisdiction over the city. They will have their own agreements for shelter or have their own facility.

Peg stated they prepared a survey for County residents. Dog and cat numbers in the County exceed the national average by two fold.

Public comment was closed. Board deliberation followed. Commissioner Thompson stated this is something that the Commissioners have looked at for several years. The present Sheriff is supportive of this, as well as the County Attorney.

Commissioner Chilcott said, in regard to the issue of the shelter, the County currently funds the shelter in the amount of \$30,000 per year. He added the Board of County Commissioners will be looking at future funding for expansion of the shelter or another holding facility. As this program matures they should be better able to assist the shelter.

Clark stated the ordinance is for public health and safety. But the shelter has its own responsibility. When an enforcement issue is added it will change what they do. Commissioner Chilcott said as the County generates more revenue they can assist them in space, personnel or build their own facilities. That is something we need to look at in the future.

Linda stated the ordinance needs to be approved first; then they can look for grants. This is a process to build up revenues so the animal problems can be addressed.

Vicki Dawson of the Humane Shelter stated this ordinance can help educate the public and the students who need to know how to take care of a pet by proper licensing, vaccinations and keeping them home. There are too many people who think when they come here they can let their dogs do whatever they want. This is yet another tool for animal protection, animal health and animal behavior enforcement. She stated they need to approach this in a positive manner.

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to adopt the first reading of Ordinance # 16. Commissioner Chilcott seconded the motion. Discussion: Under-Sheriff McConnell stated the Sheriff's Office understands the process that will be developed and the need to look for grants. All voted "aye".

A member of the audience asked why Commissioner Lyons was not present. It was noted he was absent for personal reasons.

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to set the second reading to January 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Commissioner Chilcott seconded the motion and all voted "aye".

In other business Commissioner Thompson attended a Human Resource meeting in Missoula.

Commissioner Chilcott attended an RC & D meeting during the later afternoon hours.